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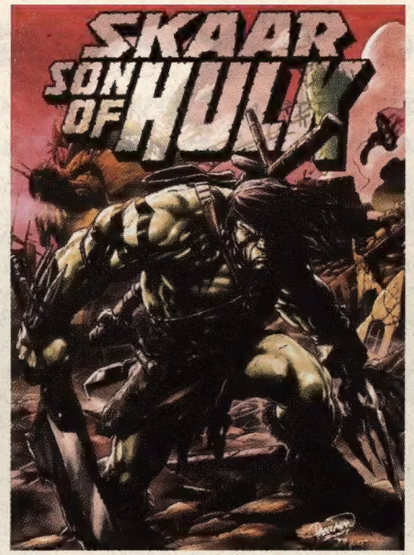
Hulk Fans Seeing Red as the Son Also Rises



Readers of ***World War Hulk*** were undoubtedly thrilled by the trio of announcements included at the end of the final issue of the miniseries. First, there's the new ***Hulk*** series by *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness* that was reported on here in ***CSN*** a few months ago. Then there's the news that ***The Incredible Hulk*** becomes ***The Incredible Herc*** (starring Hercules) as of #112. And finally, there's a new series coming starring ***Skaar, Son of Hulk.***

Son of Hulk? Wasn't his world obliterated at the end of ***Planet Hulk?***

Not exactly, according to writer *Greg Pak.* "The Warbound's 'world' was destroyed in that Crown City and a million of the Hulk's followers were incinerated and great chunks of the landscape were shattered, but the planet's still spinning 'round out there." And that world, in all its primeval glory, is the home of Skaar.

Who is Skaar? "The son of the Hulk and the Shadow Warrior Caiera the Oldstrong," Pak explained. "Check out *Carlo Pagulayan's* depiction of the character in the back pages of ***World War Hulk #5***. If you loved ***Planet Hulk*** and ***World War Hulk***, you're not going to want to miss ***Skaar: Son of Hulk***." The new series is tentatively slated to debut in March of 2008.

"***Skaar*** is going to be something fans of ***World War Hulk*** and ***Planet Hulk*** will really enjoy," editor *Mark Paniccia* added. "There are a lot of cool touches that Greg's putting on it but it's very visceral and epic. He's Genghis Khan, but with the Pak twist."

Paniccia, who has previously described ***Planet Hulk*** as Act One of the saga and ***World War Hulk*** as Act Two, confirms that "Act Three is ***Skaar: Son of Hulk***. It will take the themes and world of ***Planet Hulk*** and ***World War Hulk*** to the next level with the insane, epic story of a son of rage fighting for survival on a savage planet."

Pak isn't through with the other former residents of Sakar, either. "Let me take a second to plug the ***World War Hulk Aftersmash: Warbound*** miniseries, which debuts in December, written by me with blisteringly awesome art by *Leonard Kirk*. The book will focus on the Hulk's Warbound companions Korg, Hiroim, Brood, and Elloe as they escape New York and find themselves in the middle of a new crisis in the New Mexico desert featuring one of the Hulk's former loves and one of the Hulk's greatest enemies. The book will carry through on big threads from ***World War Hulk*** while laying critical groundwork for future stories. The book will also feature 'Tales of the Warbound' backup stories that will shed additional light on these Warbound heroes and continue to build the history and mythology of Planet Sakaar -- again, not to be missed if you dug ***Planet Hulk*** and ***World War Hulk***."

Now what about this ***Incredible Herc*** book? How does Pak describe the adventures of Hercules and Amadeus? "A ridiculously fun and sometimes surprisingly moving exploration of the insane amount of trouble that the planet's most irresponsible god and most incorrigible teen genius can make when they put their minds and muscles to it," Pak said. "Crazy hijinks, tons of smashing, occasional deep thoughts, and gorgeous art by *Khoi Pham*. Co-written by yours truly and the genuinely brilliant *Fred Van Lente*."

"That says it all!" Paniccia continued. "The book's turned out to be a personal fave of mine. The art is fantastic and the story that Greg and Fred are telling is really cool and entertaining and filled with some of the best superhuman battles this side of World War Hulk."

Don't expect this to be a temporary thing, either. According to Marvel's *Jim McCann*, the book's title will officially change to ***The Incredible Hercules*** beginning with #113, in stores in early 2008.

As for the Hulk? Well, old green skin will be back... but he may not be green! The ads for the new *Jeph Loeb-Ed McGuinness* ***Hulk*** series depict a savage Hulk with a reddish cast...

"Jeph and Ed have been jonesing to do a Hulk-related story for a while now," editor Paniccia said, "and this was the perfect time to challenge these guys and show just why they're two of the top creators in the industry. Greg and Carlo have a different story to tell, and I think both of these projects are going to be biggest things to come out the Hulk mythos in decades. That's saying a lot because ***Planet Hulk*** and ***World War Hulk*** were *huge* for us, putting the character back on the map and making it a top ten book. 2008 will be a great time to be a Hulk fan. Trust me!"

Loeb was most enthused to be working with his frequent collaborator *Ed McGuinness*, with whom he made comics history in the pages of ***Superman/Batman.*** Loeb described ***Hulk*** as "the book that McGuinness was born to draw."

"Jeph and Ed's project gives us an action-packed mystery that I can't tell too much about," Paniccia added, "except it's scheduled as an ongoing." So what *do* we know about ***Hulk?*** Well, we know that there's a murder in the first issue... and the second issue finds the Hulk breaking into the SHIELD helicarrier in search of evidence that might bring down the murderer... and there's a confrontation with Iron Man that's sure to rival the recent Thor-Iron Man faceoff in its ferocity.

But how do we get from here to there? Well, readers can witness the beginnings of the post-***World War Hulk*** era in the pages of ***Hulk: Aftersmash,*** a ***World War Hulk*** wrap-up book that paves the way not only for ***World War Hulk Aftersmash: Warbound,*** but also for ***World War Hulk: Damage Control,*** a three-issue limited series by *Dwayne McDuffie & Salva Espin* that "deals with Goliath's nephew, Tom Foster, and the rebuilding of NYC." And Paniccia hints that there's a *third* ***Aftersmash*** book in the works—one that "deals with Misty Knight's new team."

Multiple spinoffs? A red Hulk? A murder mystery? A Hulk offspring? a Hercules ongoing series? If it sounds like there are a lot of Hulk-related plans in the works, that's because there *are*! "If you thought 2007 was something, wait 'til you see what's coming," Paniccia said. "2008 is going to be a *great* year to be a Hulk fan!"

by Matt Brady
(with Cliff Biggers)

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

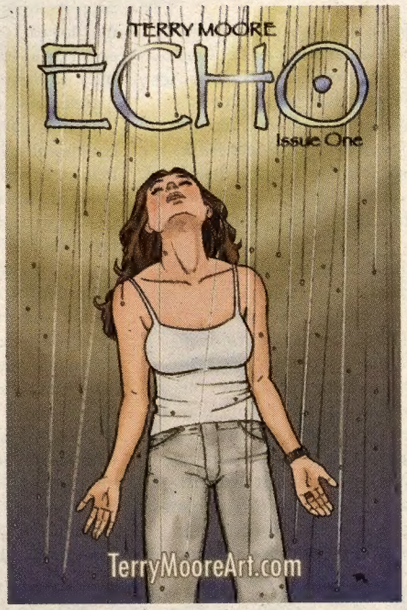
Echo-ing Moore Good News!

Readers who have wondered what *Terry Moore* would do to follow up his phenomenal series ***Strangers in Paradise*** will be thrilled to hear that Moore has announced not only the name of the new project, but also a tentative launch date... and it isn't that far away!

As Moore posted on his blog, "the copyright application is where it needs to be, (the logo trademark takes longer but is in process so we're good to go) so I am now free to speak about the new series. By the way, with people debating the definition of the graphic novel, where to shelve it, is it art or literature, something to be racked next to prose fiction or with kids comics, what's the dewey decimal assignment, etc. etc. etc.... well, all that comes home again when you apply for copyright. A quote from the instruction on the U.S. Copyright website:

"The correct application form and deposit for registering a copyright claim depend on the nature of the work and the way in which it is presented. Because a cartoon is generally a work of the visual arts, Form VA is usually appropriate for registration. However, if the textual elements in a comic strip are preponderant, registration should be made on Form TX.

"Get my drift? Even picking the correct form calls for a decision in judgment. Stephen King uses Form TX, Disney comics use Form VA. Which one do I use? I went for VA, but the point is comics are really blending definitions more and more. Someday the Library of Congress will have to update the process to accommodate new styles of work...



"The new series… issue one is completed. The title of the series is ***Echo***. The cover art is at Brian's awaiting his life-giving color talents. Because I'm impatient, I made a color rough version for myself and that's what I'm showing you here. Brian's version will be the pretty sparkly one you see on the real deal comic cover. So, take a look and then I'll tell you what you're looking at.

"***Echo*** is the story of Julie Martin, a photographer taking pictures in the desert when she finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time. That's all I'm going to tell you about the plot at the moment. The Diamond solicitation coming out in January will reveal a bit more. ***Echo #1*** will be in stores March 5th. It will be 24 pages, B&W like ***Strangers in Paradise***. The first printing of issue one, and only the first printing, will feature a silver foil cover. Why? Because that's not rain, or hail."

Just four months away, folks—just four months away!...

Coming Comics—Image in February

In rural New England, a hiker is infected with an ancient curse days before his ten-year high school reunion. If his soul is pure he will be able to resist its bloodlust; if not… nothing will be able to stop him! Find out just how pure he is in ***Gutwrencher #1,*** the kick-off of a three-part series by *Shannon Eric Denton, Steve Niles, Keith Giffen, & Anthony Hightower.*

Mark Sable & Robbi Rodriguez offer a dark and clever look at modern sorority life in ***Hazed,*** an original graphic novel that follows three young girls' odyssey through the world of casual sex, eating disorders, and bizarre hazing rituals.

Joe Casey & Axel #13 produce their own original manga adventure in ***Krash Bastards.*** It's brutal... it's dystopian... it's 144 pages of SF action adventure!

The earliest installments of *Frank Cho's* fondly remembered humor strip return to print in the ***Liberty Meadows Tenth Anniversary Edition HC,*** which supplements the early strips with the never-before-seen college strips than started it all, as well as a bonus sketch gallery.

Jim Lee supplies the cover art for *Robert Kirkman's* ***Invincible #51,*** which introduces a new costume, a new home, a new partner, and a new beginning for the teen hero.

The holy war between a cloned Jesus Christ and an army of vampires continues in ***Loaded Bible 3: Communion*** by *Tim Seeley, Mike Norton, Chris Johnson, & Ben Glendenning.* Can Christ survive an onslaught by cyborg mercenaries long enough to help Sistine Centuria save the Mother of All Vampires, Lilith, from execution?

Faith meets fortitude in ***The Magdalena/Daredevil,*** a crossover oneshot by *Phil Hester & Ande Parks.* When an ancient demon is bent on settling old scores with the Catholic Church, it's up to The Magdalena and Daredevil to stop him!

Jim Mahfood opens up his sketches and his studio in ***Mixtape Volume One: Food One/Jim Mahfood Art HC,*** a full-color hardcover art compendium featuring never-before-seen art, album covers, sketches, flyer art, animation pitches and more.

The fascinating fan work of the phenomenal *Fred Hembeck* is spotlighted in ***The Nearly Complete Essential Fred Hembeck Archives Omnibus TP.*** All seven of his early '80s collections—***Bah, Hembeck!; The Hembeck Files,*** *et al*—are included, as well as rarely seen strips, personal commissions, online pieces, holiday cards, assorted oddities, and over a dozen stories ranging up to ten pages in length! That's over 900 pages of comics material, topped with an introduction from none other than *Stan Lee.*

Todd Dezago & Craig Rousseau's Perhapanauts think big in ***Perhapanauts Annual #1.*** This extra-length book offers the perfect jumping-on point for any reader, providing a great introduction to The Perhapanauts in a self-contained tale that leads directly into the all-new series beginning in April.

Andi Watson's ***Princess at Midnight,*** originally published in the ***Best New Manga*** anthology, is reformatted and given ten new pages in the ***Princess at Midnight OGN.*** The book stars Holly Crescent, who leads a sheltered life as a home-schooled girl by day. By night she's Princess of Castle Waxing, where she wages a dangerous turf war with the Horrible Horde.

Phil Hester, Michael Broussard, & Dale Keown reveal how Jackie Estacado and Dr. Kirchner first met in ***The Darkness #3.***

Apparently assassins are extremely patient... After ten years, Scud continues his adventures in the *very* long-awaited ***Scud, the Disposable Assassin #21,*** by *Rob Schrab* with a cover by *Ashley Wood.* The series ended on a cliffhanger with our robot hit man agreeing to destroy the world. Everyone comes back in this issue that picks up where #20 left off... but does everyone survive?

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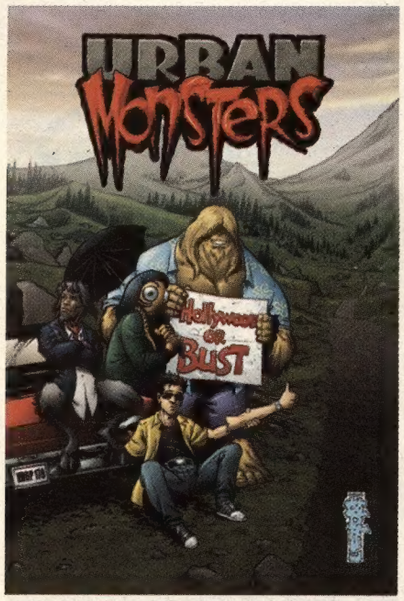


Four monster buddies hijack a classic T-Bird and set out from New York to Hollywood on a quest for fame and fortune in ***Urban Monsters #1*** by *Will Wilson, Joanne Moore, & Tone Rodriguez.* And nothing is gonna stand in their way...except the Road Trip from Hell!!

With a film on the way, what better time to release the ***Wanted: Director's Cut Edition?*** This 224-page hardcover includes not only the entire series by *Mark Millar & J.G. Jones,* but also Millar's annotated script, interviews, and never-before-seen developmental *arc.*

Image collected editions include:

•***Brit Volume 2,*** collecting ***Brit #s 1-5*** by *Bruce Brown & Cliff Rathburn;*

•***Lions, Tigers, & Bears Volume 2*** by *Mike Bullock, Jack Lawrence, Paul Gutierrez, & Bob Pedroza;*

•***Noble Causes Archives Volume Two,*** a hefty 598-page black and white compendium collecting ***Noble Causes #s 12-31*** and ***Noble Causes: Extended Family—Secrets #s 1 & 2*** by *Jay Faerber;*

•***PvP Volume Five: PvP Treks On,*** a trade paperback collecting *Scott Kurtz's* ***PvP #s 25-30;***

•***Spawn Volume Five,*** collecting ***Spawn #s 76-96*** by *Todd McFarlane, Brian Holguin, & Greg Capullo;*

•***True Story Swear to God Archives Volume One,*** a trade paperback collecting all seventeen self-published issues of Image's autobiographical series; and

•***Witchblade Volume Two,*** a trade paperback collecting ***Witchblade #s 86-92.***

CSNsider

•Apparently "The Resurrection of Ra's al Ghul" has breathed new life into the Batman franchise: the prequel and the fist two installments of the serialized saga have all sold out at DC and are going back to press. The second printing of ***Robin Annual #7*** (the prelude to the story arc) will feature a new cover by French artist *Vatine;* the second printing of ***Batman #670*** (a second prelude tale) will feature a new cover by *Tony Daniel;* and the second printing of ***Robin #168*** (part one of "Resurrection")features a new cover by *Stephane Roux.* All three are slated for release this week.

•More info on that ***Starman*** hardcover series we told you about a couple of weeks ago: the series will be called ***The Starman Omnibus,*** and it will collect the entire run of the series, along with the ***Starman Annuals, Secret files, 80-Page Giant, The Shade*** miniseries, and more. ***The Starman Omnibus Volume One HC,*** a 448-page volume collecting ***Starman #s 0-16,*** kicks off the series; look for it in May.

•NBM offers a look at the secondary characters of Trondheim's ***Dungeon*** series in ***Dungeon Monstres Volume One,*** featuring an Alcibiades the Wizard story by *Jean-Christophe Menu,* a John-John the Terrible tale by *Mazan,* and other shorts in a 96-page full-color trade paperback; look for it in February.

•Graphic Imaging Technologies, the company responsible for those bargain-priced DVD-ROM collections of ***Fantastic Four, Spider-Man, The Avengers, Hulk, Iron Man,*** and others, has announced that their license to offer Marvel books on DVD will expire at the end of this year. Their last two releases will be ***Civil War—The Complete Collection*** and ***House of M—The Complete Collection,*** both slated for December release. Don't look for GIT to leave the comics-on-DVD-ROM field, though: they've signed a license with Archie Comics to offer collections of Archie books on DVD beginning in February, 2008.

•*Mark Evanier & Dan Spiegle* bring back the critically acclaimed Hollywood detective Crossfire in ***Many Happy Returns*** from About Comics. The book will also feature a new ***Journey*** tale by *William Messner-Loebs*—the first new tale of Wolverine McAlistaire in twenty-five years—and a Licensable Bear tale by *Nat Gertler, Rusty Haller, & Ryan Estrada.*

•*Keith Giffen* has signed an exclusive contract (apparently for two years) with DC, where he has done the majority of his work for the past few years. Giffen has been the visual designer/mastermind for DC's two weekly series ***52*** and ***Countdown.*** Giffen told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Vaneta Rogers* that "I'm going to be involved in two or three projects that I'm not at liberty to discuss right now... One project falls squarely into that ***Countdown/52/***'when is he ever going to learn?' category. But not weekly, thank God! And the other ones are just these nice little ideas that, when DiDio calls and says 'Would you be interested in this?' I'm thinking, 'Yes, I would *definitely* be interested in that.' so I'm going to be kept busy!

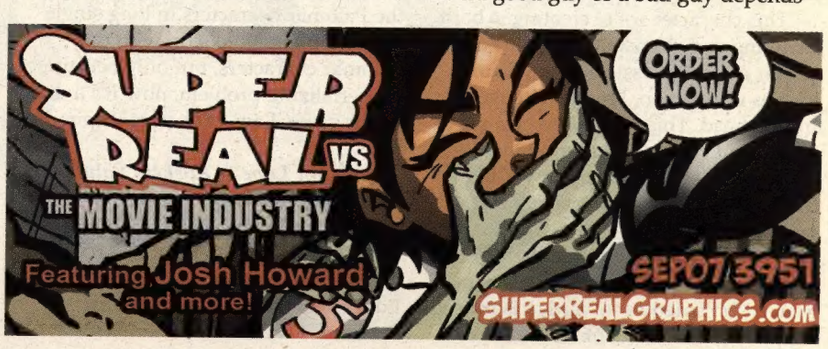
"As far as layouts go, on ***Countdown,*** I will continue to do layouts until the book finishes. Then if DC has a book that has an artist who, maybe his strong suit isn't storytelling but he can draw like nobody's business—there's always the option for me to step in and do that for other projects here and there!

"And there's a project for later next year that, if everything works out OK, I'll definitely be pencilling it... It will be a miniseries. Again, I'm just not at liberty to tell you anything about it, but I'm hoping it works out that I can do it."

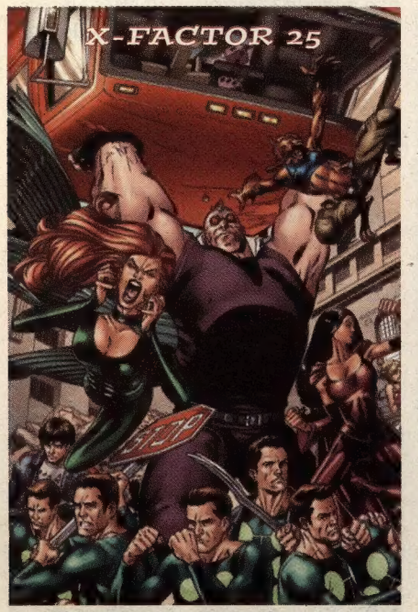
•***Captain Marvel #1,*** the premiere issue of the new series by *Brian Reed & Lee Weeks,* sold out within days of release and is going back to press; the second printing will feature a variant cover by Weeks. Look for the book in comic shops in two more weeks.

•*Michael Avon Oeming & Bryan Glass's* fantasy series ***Mice Templar*** posted its second consecutive sellout issue; #2 is going back to press immediately, featuring an all-new painted cover by Oeming; look for it in comic shops at about the same time as this issue of ***CSN.***

•***El Diablo*** returns to the DC publishing schedule in early 2008 courtesy of writer *Jai Nitz* and artist *Phil Hester.* "This is a third El Diablo," Nitz told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Matt Brady.* "This El Diablo is Chato Santana. To most citizens, he's a diabolical criminal gang lord who wont' bat an eye at murder, extortion, smuggling, or drug running. But to the people in his neighborhood, he's a local hero. Whether or not he's a good guy or a bad guy depends



on who you talk to. A series of events put him behind bars, where his gang thinks he's turned snitch. He winds up in a hospital as a dead man walking with no one to turn to but a comatose old man. This old man turns out to be a 170-year-old spirit of vengeance waiting for an heir." Before too long, "El Diablo is a spirit of vengeance, Hell's punisher on Earth... He has a beef with anyone who deserves comeuppance, which is pretty much everybody..."

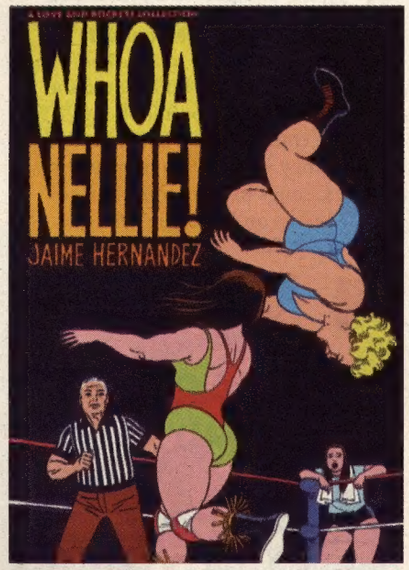


•***X-Factor #25*** by *Peter David & Scot Eaton,* the third installment of ***Messiah Complex,*** has sold out—and that's the third consecutive ***Messiah Complex*** sell-out. To meet the demand for this issue, Marvel is going back to press with a second printing featuring a new cover by Eaton; look for it next week.

•Forget gritty—the folks at Zenescope have found plenty of success in ***Grimm!*** In March 2008, the publisher will unveil their second spinoff from their hit ***Grimm Fairy Tales*** series. The new book, ***The Piper,*** reveals the disturbing past of the infamous Pied Piper, the man who took revenge on a town seven hundred years ago by stealing its children. The story ultimately picks up in present day Florida and follows a musically gifted but misunderstood high school senior who finds a way to summon the Piper to do his bidding, not fully realizing the ramifications of his actions.

"This character we're creating is both terrifying and charismatic and fits a similar mold to classic horror villains such as Candyman, Freddie Kreuger and Pinhead. This is going to be a very creepy and extremely entertaining horror mini-series," Zenescope's VP and ***Grimm Fairy Tales*** writer *Ralph Tedesco* said.

•***CSN*** has confirmation that the rumored move of *Brian Wood's* ***Demo*** from AiT/PlanetLar to Vertigo is indeed happening in 2008. Look for a new edition of the original twelve-issue series by Wood and artist *Becky Cloonan* next year; there are reports that a new mini-series is also in the works.



•The long-lived and critically acclaimed ***Love and Rockets*** is ending its comics run this year; rather than continuing in series form, the book will go on hiatus until the summer of 2008, at which point it will return in an original graphic novel format. Each annual volume will comprise at least one hundred pages of all-new comics, split evenly between its creators, *Gilbert, Jaime,* and sometimes *Mario Hernandez.*

"This new format will allow the Bros. to present longer stories without having to chop them down into bite-size pieces," said Fantagraphics publisher *Gary Groth.* "In today's graphic novel-oriented world, readers (and cartoonists) are increasingly impatient with this sort of serialization, especially in the case of ***Love & Rockets*** where, because of the split nature of the book, each artist has only fifteen pages."

"This is a pretty exciting prospect, creative-wise," *Gilbert Hernandez* added. "I've enjoyed working in the ***New Tales of Palomar*** format [Gilbert's three-issue solo series published under the Ignatz imprint from Fantagraphics], where I don't have to worry about editing twenty-four page stories to fourteen or twelve pages any more. I've got fifty pages to go wild with in ***Vol. III, #1.*** Later I might do a whole fifty-page story in one issue, and return some of the Palomar characters in long single pieces. I planned to stop with the Palomar characters, but only because of the serializing problem; now it's a different game. I am very, very inspired here!"

Look for ***Love & Rockets Volume III #1*** in August 2008.

•*Victor Gorelick* has been promoted to the role of Editor-in-Chief at Archie Comics. His former role as Managing Editor will now be filled by *Mike Pellerito.*

•The ***G.I. Joe*** license is up for renewal, and Hasbro is entertaining offers from a number of publishers, including Devil's Due (the current publisher of the the ***Joe*** titles) and Marvel (the original ***Joe*** comics publisher). *Mike Surabian,* a representative of Hasbro's public relations agency Hunter PR, told ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Michael Doran* that "Hasbro solicited proposals at Comic-Con [International], currently have a number of them in-house, and will be deciding on the Joe comic partner post-Thanksgiving. No decisions have been made yet." As soon as that decision *is* made, you'll hear about it in ***CSN!***

Coming Comics—Marvel in February

The second "Brand New Day" Spidey arc by *Marc Guggenheim & Salvador Larroca,* originally slated to appear in ***Amazing Spider-Man #549-551*** in January, has now been pushed back to February—same issues, same contents, just a slight delay...

Ron Lim makes his debut as interior artist of *Laurell K. Hamilton's* vampire hunter in ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: Guilty Pleasures #8,*** joining *Jess Ruffner* to continue the adaptation of Hamilton's novel.

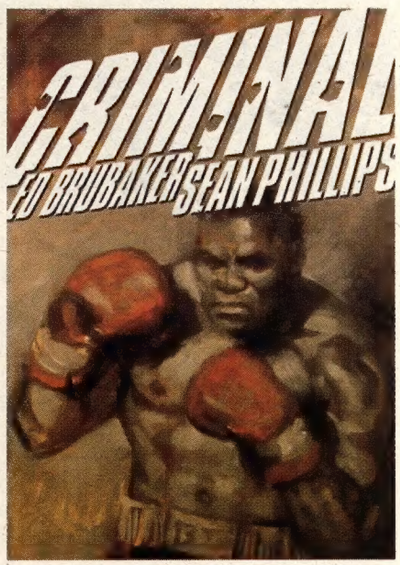
Pay a visit to Wakanda in the year 2057 in *Reginald Hudlin, Larry Stroman, & Ken Lashley's* ***Black Panther Annual #1.*** Just as the Watcher predicted, Wakanda is an Imperial Power steering the course for humanity's future. As T'Challa prepares the next Black Panther for the great responsibility ahead, he must first reflect on the road traveled–a long and winding journey filled with surprises.

Cable & Deadpool comes to an end with the fiftieth issue, a Venom Symbiote tale by *Reilly Brown & Fabian Nicieza* that guest-stars Spider-Man, the FF, the Mighty Avengers, and others.

The new Captain America takes on the Red Skull—and the fate of the US hangs in the balance—in ***Captain America #35*** by *Ed Brubaker, Steve Epting, & Butch Guice.*

Alan Davis brings back Marvel's freakiest family in ***ClanDestine #1.*** They've existed, hidden among mankind for centuries, a mysterious bloodline of superhumans, eternal and apart. And all they've desired is to be left alone, to pursue their individual interests in peace. But now, the existence of their hidden clan is threatened with exposure by the activities of one of their youngest siblings, who aspires to be the costumed crimefighter called the Crimson Crusader!

Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips relaunch their Icon series with ***Criminal Vol 2 #1,*** the first of three standalone issues. This one focuses on Gnarly the bartender, telling the story of the last days of his life as a boxer and revealing how the Undertow bar came into his hands. On top of this longer-than-usual length main story, ***Criminal*** now features an expanded back-pages section, as well, with articles by Brubaker and other top crime writers, from novelists to screenwriters to comic writers.



Marvel's muck-monster returns in ***Dead of Night Featuring Man-Thing,*** a four-part series by *Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Kano.* Biochemist Ted Sallis and his team are on a mission: To recreate the serum that spawned the world's first super-soldier. But like the swamp itself, there are dangers lurking beneath the surface...Ted's partner Eric, his girlfriend Ellen, the government, terrorists...everyone wants what Ted has, but what Ted doesn't realize is...the swamp itself may want him. A radical re-imagining of the Man-Thing's origin begins here, in a horror-tinged tale narrated by Digger, keeper of the Tower of Shadows!

Mark Millar & Bryan Hitch begin their run on Marvel's flagship title beginning with ***Fantastic Four #554***—and right off the bat, they have some surprises in store for readers. For example, who is Mrs. Fantastic? And how will her return into Reed's life rock comicdom's First Family? Also, get ready to meet the Invisible Woman's brand *new* superteam!

Together, *Stan Lee & Jack Kirby* produced 102 consecutive issues of ***Fantastic Four*** But there was a 103rd story they'd begun in 1970, but never finished—until now! Working from copies of Jack's penciled pages, Stan and *Joe Sinnott* have reunited to complete the work they started almost four decades ago—and you can see the finished product in ***Fantastic Four: The Lost Adventure.*** Plus, this super-sized issue includes reproductions of Kirby's unlinked penciled pages, with border notes and analysis by ***Jack Kirby Collector*** editor *John Morrow,* along with a complete reprint of ***Fantastic Four #108*** by *Stan Lee & John Buscema,* which incorporated some of the material from the lost story as a flashback.

Now that Johnny Blaze has discovered who's responsible for turning him into a flame-headed horror, he's on the road looking for vengeance in ***Ghost Rider #20*** by *Jason Aaron & Roland Boschi.*

Joss Whedon & John Cassaday bring their acclaimed run on Marvel's mutants to an end in ***Giant-Size Astonishing X-Men #1.*** The powerlords of Breakworld bring the fight to Earth. Can the X-Men stop them from destroying the whole planet? Will the Avengers join their fight? And is it true that one of the X-Men won't walk away from this fight?

Who is the Red Hulk? *Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness* address that question in ***Hulk #2,*** which also features a confrontation between the Hulk and Iron Man.

Matt Fraction, Mitch Breitweiser, Chris Brunner, Russ Heath, & Lewis LaRosa present more adventures of the Golden Age Iron Fist in ***The Immortal Iron Fist: Orson Randall A& the Green Mist of Death,*** an adventure with plot twists that will affect the life of Danny Rand.

In the wake of ***World War Hulk,*** the Mighty Avengers are hot on the heels of unrepentant renegades Hercules and Amadeus Cho in ***Incredible Hercules #114*** by *Greg Pak, Fred Van Lente, & Khoi Pham.* Cho has a master plan to eliminate SHIELD... but is he willing to get Herc killed to do it?

Iron Man faces off against one of his most deadly enemies, the Mandarin, in ***Iron Man #26*** by *Daniel Knauf, Charles Knauf, & Roberto De La Torre.* With the lives of millions hanging in the balance, Iron Man must fight his way out of the darkness and prevent the Mandarin from releasing a plague that would change humanity as we know it!

Mark Millar & John Romita Jr. present a realistic look at the whole superhero thing in ***Kick-Ass,*** a mature-readers book that shows just what might happen if a normal guy gets super-powers.

Robin Gillespie & Tommy Ohtsuka adapt *Kinley MacGregor's* Arthurian novel in the six-part ***Lords of Avalon: Sword of Darkness.*** In a world where Camelot is ruled by Lord Kerrigan, the peasant Seren has become a pawn between the rulers of light and the rulers of darkness. But the talented seamstress faces a dilemma after Lord Kerrigan kidnaps her: Is Kerrigan truly the demon others portray him to be, or is he her savior in disguise?

Captain America, Ka-Zar, Shanna, the Vanguard, and the Guardian are featured in the 40-page ***Marvel Comics Presents #6.***

Marvel sets out on a quest for the great white whale in ***Marvel Illustrated: Moby Dick,*** a six-issue adaptation by *Roy Thomas & Pascal Alixe* of the classic novel by *Herman Melville* (and did you know that, when the novel was initially published, it was considered a failure)?

Has Jessica Jones turned her back on the Avengers? Is she leaving Luke Cage? Find out in ***New Avengers #38*** by *Brian Bendis & Michael Gaydos,* which also guest-stars the Mighty Avengers.

As Nova desperately races to find the key to defeating the Phalanx, the tyrannical techno-fiends make one last attempt to enslave him—in an act that will unravel Richard Rider's life right back to the moment where he first became the man called Nova – and possibly reveal his future! Witness those revelations in ***Nova Annual #1*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Mahmud Asrar.*

Brian Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming go long with ***Powers Annual 2008,*** a 48-page special in which a present-day crime opens up clues to another chapter in Walker's colorful epic past!

Crime author *Duane Swierczynski* joins with artist *Michael Lacombe* for ***Punisher: Force of Nature,*** a oneshot that finds criminal survivors of a shipwreck facing off against Frank Castle.

The Thunderbolts work for the American government...but the Radioactive Man and the Swordsman are foreign citizens. When a mission goes against the interests of their home countries, where will their loyalties lie -- with their team, their homeland...or themselves? Find out in ***Thunderbolts: International Incident*** by *Christos Gage & Ben Oliver.*

The clash between Iron Man and the Hulk continues in ***Ultimate Human #2*** by *Warren Ellis & Cary Nord.* The grey goliath is in full smash mode as he rampages through a Stark facility designed

specifically to hold him—and all that stands between him and total destruction is the gleaming gladiator called Iron Man! Unfortunately, in the mad rush to stop the Hulk, Tony Stark has jumped into a suit of armor that happens to have no weapons systems...

One of Peter's friends at Midtown High had a secret: they're a mutant! But now the secret is out, and it's all that Spider-Man can do to keep the entire school from totally freaking out! That's a little tougher to do, though, when Magneto pays a visit in ***Ultimate Spider-Man #119*** by *Brian Bendis & Stuart Immonen.*

Learn the true origin of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch in ***Ultimates 3 #3*** by *Jeph Loeb & Joe Madureira*—a book that brings the Ultiverse one step closer to ***Ultimatum...***

Brian Reed & Harvey Tolibao present the Hulkling's first meeting with the father he never knew—a Kree hero known as Captain Marvel— in ***Young Avengers Present #2.***

Thor gets a new artist with its seventh issue as *Marko Djurdjevic* joins *J. Michael Straczynski* kick off a new arc for the God of Thunder.

The ramifications of ***Messiah Complex*** resonate through ***Uncanny X-Men #495*** by *Ed Brubaker & Michael Choi* as the surviving mutants reassess Xavier's dream amidst the rubble of the mansion. Betrayed by one of their own, and mourning the loss of former allies, *is peaceful coexistence still an option?*

In the aftermath of ***Messiah Complex,*** Wolverine is looking for revenge... and you can find out just who is the focus of his rage in ***Wolverine #62*** by *Jason Aaron & Ron Garney.*

Following the events of ***Messiah Complex,*** X-Factor Investigations is in shambles. Jamie is a basketcase from his trip to a nightmarish future, Layla's fate is completely in the air, and Wolfsbane has to leave the team to join ***X-Force*** (and we'll tell you more about that in the next paragraph), though none of her friends can know about it. What will Wolfsbane tell the X-Factor team? What are they going to do about Layla? Find out in *Peter David & Pablo Raimondi's* ***X-Factor #28,*** which launches a new direction for the series.

Bring Wolverine, Warpath, Wolfsbane, and X-23 together and what do you have? ***X-Force,*** that's what! *Craig Kyle, Christopher Yost, & Clayton Crain* kick off the newest mutant superteam in February... a team assembled to carry out the dirty work that the X-Men can never know about...

What's ***Legacy?*** Marvel isn't saying—but they *will* confirm that it spins out of ***Messiah Complex,*** and it continues into ***X-Men #208,*** which is renamed ***X-Men: Legacy*** with that issue!

Marvel collected editions include:

•All-New Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Volume One Premiere HC, featuring 240 full-color pages of informative entries;

•ClanDestine Classic Premiere HC, collecting *Alan Davis's* early ClanDestine tales;

•Essential Avengers Volume Six, a black-and-white compendium featuring ***Avengers #s 120-140, Giant-Size Avengers #s 1-4, Captain Marvel #33, & Fantastic Four #150;***

•Exiles Volume Sixteen: Starting Over, collecting #s 95-100 and ***Exiles: Days of Then & Now;***

•Franklin Richards: Collected Chaos, a digest-sized compilation of Franklin Richards misadventures;

•Howard the Duck Omnibus HC, an 800 page whopper of a book reprinting all of Howard's early appearances, from ***Adventure Into Fear #19*** through ***Marvel Team-Up #96;***

•The Incredible Hulk Omnibus Volume One HC, a 750+ page volume featuring the Hulk tales from ***Incredible Hulk #106, Tales to Astonish #s 59-101,*** and ***Incredible Hulk #102;***

•Iron Man: Demon in a Bottle Premiere HC, collecting the landmark *David Michelinie-Bob Layton-John Romita Jr.-Carmine Infantino* arc from ***Iron Man #s 120-128;***

•Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: The First Death HC, collecting the original miniseries by Hamilton, *Jonathon Green, & Wellington Alves,* along with the ***Anita Blake Handbook;***

•Magician Apprentice Volume Two HC, collecting the second half of the adaptation of *Raymond E. Feist's* fantasy tale;

•Marvel Adventures Iron Man Volume Two, a digest reprinting ***MA: Iron Man #s 5-8;***

•Marvel Fanfare Volume One, collecting the first seven issues of the anthology series from the 1980's;

•Marvel Illustrated: Last of the Mohicans Premiere HC, collecting the classic adaptation by *Roy Thomas & Steven Kurth;*

•Marvel Illustrated: The Man in the Iron Mask Premiere HC, collecting the six-part adaptation by *Roy Thomas & Hugo Petrus;*

•Marvel Illustrated: Treasure Island Premiere HC, collecting the six-part adaptation by *Roy Thomas & Mario Gully;*

•Marvel Masterworks Ant-Man/Giant-Man Volume Two HC, reprinting the Henry Pym tales from ***Tales to Astonish #s 53-69;***

•Marvel Masterworks: Atlas Era Heroes Volume 2 HC, collecting the adventures of Sub-Mariner, Captain America, and the Human Torch from the 1950's-era ***Men's Adventure #s 27-28, Captain America #s 76-78, Human Torch #s 36-38,*** and ***Marvel Super-Heroes #16;***

•Moon Knight Volume Two: Midnight Sun, collecting ***Moon Knight #s 7-13 & Annual #1;***

•Ms. Marvel Volume Four: Monster Smash Premiere HC, collecting ***Ms. Marvel #s 18-24;***

•Onslaught Reborn HC, collecting the *Jeph Loeb-Rob Liefeld* miniseries;

•The Order Volume One: The Next Right Thing, collecting the first seven issues of the *Matt Fraction-Barry Kitson* series;

•Orson Scott Card's Wyrms, collecting the adaptation of the *Orson Scott Card* SF tale;

•Punisher Max Volume Four HC, collecting ***Punisher Max #s 37-49;***

•Red Prophet: The Tales of Alvin Maker Volume Two HC, collecting the second half of the adaptation of the *Orson Scott Card* saga;

•Shanna the She-Devil: Survival of the Fittest, collecting the four-issue limited series;

•Spider-Man: Back in Black, a softcover collection of ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 539-543, Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #s 17-23, & Annual #1;***

•Sub-Mariner: Revolution, collecting the *Matt Chernis-Peter Johnson-Phil Briones* miniseries;

•Super-Villain Team-Up: Modok's 11, collecting the five-part miniseries;

•Ultimate Power, a hardcover collection of the nine-issue series by *Brian Bendis, Jeph Loeb, J. Michael Straczynski, & Greg Land;*

•Ultimate Spider-Man: Death of a Goblin, collecting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 112-117;***

•Ultimate Spider-Man Volume Nine, a hardcover collecting the final *Brian Bendis-Mark Bagley* issues from ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 97-111;***

•Wolverine: Evolution, collecting ***Wolverine #s 50-55;***

•Wolverine: Origins Volume Four—Our War Premiere HC, collecting ***Wolverine: Origins #s 16-20 & Annual #1;*** and

•X-Men: SuperNovas, collecting ***X-Men #s 188-199 & Annual #1.***

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